



# The Spectacle

## New Museum Technician for Arlington House

Laura Anderson has been selected as the new Museum Technician for Arlington House. She starts work on Tuesday, February 22nd. Her schedule is Sunday through Thursday, 6:30-3:00.

Laura comes to us from the Little Compton, Rhode Island Historical Society, specifically the Wilbor House (<http://users.ids.net/~ricon/lchs/>), where she has been the sole paid employee for the past couple of years. Her experience is vast and varied - she does all the historic housekeeping, environmental monitoring and pest control as well as trains the volunteers, gives school programs and standard tours, researches and writes articles, writes and publishes the newsletter, and plans and executes short term exhibits. Laura is from the Midwest, was educated in San Francisco (History degrees) and then came to the East Coast to work and study, recently receiving her certificate in Museum Studies from Harvard Extension. She volunteered for the NPS at the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor working on projects from river clean up to cataloging artifacts.

She had several internships including one with a conservator where she cleaned and mounted objects for an exhibit. Laura is excited about starting a career with the NPS and working at Arlington House. She knows the amount of work there is to do as well as the many projects, large and small, on the horizon.

Please introduce yourself to Laura when you see her (or someone who looks new! - it's probably her) at the site or in the OAB.



Camera crew was on site for inauguration, January 20, 2005.

## History Happenings

This month marks the debut of a new feature in *The Spectacle*. Many of you have asked for a regular update on the history of the house, current research findings, work projects, etc. so here it is! Each month a short article on some aspect of ARHO history will be featured. For the debut of this feature a trivia contest, complete with prize, is offered for your consideration.

In 1925, Congress passed legislation for the restoration of Arlington House. This legislation was the culmination of years of vigorous campaigning by many individuals and organizations. What famous author played a key role in the movement to have

Arlington House restored? Hints: 1. She was the wife of a senator from New Hampshire 2. She served as an editor at *Good Housekeeping* and wrote a column for the magazine entitled "Letters From a Senator's Wife" 3. Many of her novels were set in famous historic locales, such as Washington DC and New Orleans 4. After her husband's death, she restored and lived in the former home of Confederate General PGT Beauregard

The first person who reaches Karen (703-235-1530 x 226 voicemail or by email at [karen\\_kinzey@nps.gov](mailto:karen_kinzey@nps.gov)) with the correct answer will receive one of the author's novels!

# Significant Historic Events in February

## February 1, 1778

George Washington recommended that his ward, Jack Custis, buy land at once to offset the wartime depreciation of currency. Jack then set out to buy the Alexander track, which eventually became Arlington estate. The transaction was not fully accomplished until December 1778.

## February 1, 1861

Texas, where Lieutenant Colonel Lee was stationed at the time, seceded from the Union.

## February 3, 1774

John “Jack” Parke Custis and Eleanor “Nelly” Calvert were married at Mount Airy, the bride’s home near Upper Marlborough, Maryland.

## February 5, 1826

George Hadfield, the architect of Arlington House, died in Washington City at the age of 62. His obituary in the “National Intelligencer” included “Mr. Custis’ House” in a list of buildings Mr. Hadfield designed in the Washington area.

## February 8, 1865

General Lee received orders to assume the duties of General-in-Chief of the Armies of the Confederate States.

## February 10, 1846

Mildred Childe Lee, the seventh child and fourth daughter of Robert and Mary Lee, was born at Arlington House. She was named for Lee’s youngest sister, Catharine Mildred Lee, who had married Edward Vernon Childe, and lived with him in Paris.

## February 10, 1860

Lee left Arlington at 6 a.m. to take command at San Antonio, Texas, which would be his last assignment in military service to the United States. On March 10, he wrote to his wife, “It was very sad to leave you & my departure grows harder to bear with years.”

## February 13, 1861

The Virginia secession convention convened in Richmond. There were 152 delegates chosen by public vote. The majority of delegates desired to preserve the Union provided the North make concessions, and as long as the general government did not use force against a Commonwealth attempting to secede. The convention proceeded to study the situation and consider possibilities for compromise. The first vote on adopting an ordinance of secession was not taken until April 4, when it was defeated 88-45.

## February 14, 1864

Mrs. Lee suggested that General Lee add their son, Robert, Jr., to his staff. Lee replied that “his company would be a great pleasure & comfort to me & he would be extremely useful to me in various ways. I have written to him to that effect. But I am opposed to officers surrounding themselves with their sons and relatives. It is wrong in principle & in that case the selection of offices would be made from private & social relations, rather than for the public good...I should prefer Rob’s being in the line, in an independent position, where he could rise by his own merit & not through the recommendation of his relatives.”

## February 16, 1858

In a gesture which deeply touched his father, Custis Lee had a deed drawn which would have transferred his own interest in Arlington to Robert E. Lee. “I trust Pa will not refuse to receive my interest in Arlington, for my sake, if not for his own,” Custis wrote to his Mother. “I can never have any interest separate from my dear Father and Mother.” Lee refused the offer because he felt “it would not be right” for him to accept such a gift.

## February 18, 1913

George Washington Custis Lee died at Ravensworth, near Annandale, Fairfax County, Virginia. He had retired as President of Washington and Lee College in 1897, and had spent his remaining years at

Ravensworth making architectural drawings, doing gardening and enjoying a quiet, more secluded lifestyle.

## February 21, 1825

The “National Intelligencer” summarized a speech made by GWP Custis at the annual meeting of the American Colonization Society in which Custis “mourned the existence of slavery to the South” and “rejoiced that there was, at length, a ground of hope that it will one day be removed.”

## February 22, 1732

George Washington was born at Pope’s Creek, Northern Neck, Westmoreland County, Virginia.

## February 22, 1830

In “The Birthnight,” published by GWP Custis in his “Recollections of Washington,” Custis told how the custom of celebrating Washington’s birthday with balls had originated, emphasizing that Washington had always approved of and enjoyed such “rational and elegant pleasures of life” and was “partial to the amusements of the theatre.”

## February 22, 1832

GWP Custis participated in many local celebrations of the Centennial of Washington’s birth. He painted a heroic portrait of the General watching the cannonade at the Battle of Trenton which was used to decorate the Union Hotel in Georgetown. He marched in an Alexandria parade and spoke to the Washington Society at Christ Church.

## February 22, 1861

President Buchanan called off the customary Washington Day parade “for fear some untoward incident might occur.”

The Lee family celebrated the day privately at Arlington with some of their friends, including two of Rooney’s from Massachusetts, Henry and Charles Francis Adams. Adams would later recall that “there

(continued on page 3)

# Area Special Events

## February 5

Lecture, "Lincoln's Other White House: The Soldiers's Home in Washington DC," at Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria, VA. 1 pm. \$5. Reservations suggested. 703-838-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

Workshop, "Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor," presented by Tom Perry at the Bassett Historical Center, 3964 Fairystone Park Highway in Bassett, VA. 11 am and 1 pm. More info: 276-629-9191 or email [baslib@hotmail.com](mailto:baslib@hotmail.com).

Living history, Federal Provost Marshal field recruiting station will be set up in front of the Graffiti House, 19484 Brandy Station Road north of Culpeper, VA. The Graffiti House is the visitor center for the Brandy Station Battlefield. 11 am-4 pm. 540-727-7718 or [www.brandystationfoundation.com](http://www.brandystationfoundation.com).

Special program, "Freedom Won," African-American soldiers and civilians at Endview Plantation in Newport News, VA. Details: 757-887-1862 or [www.endview.org](http://www.endview.org).



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arlington House was the home of Robert E. Lee and his family for thirty years and is uniquely associated with the Washington and Custis families. It is now preserved as a memorial to General Lee, who gained the respect of Americans in both the North and the South.

**Arlington House**  
**The Robert E. Lee Memorial**  
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway  
Turkey Run Park  
McLean, VA 22101

**Phone**  
703-235-1530

**Web Site**  
<http://www.nps.gov/arho>

**The Spectacle online**  
<http://www.nps.gov/arho/tour/spectacle.html>

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## February 6

Bus tour, "Harpers Ferry: John Brown's Raid and the Civil War," with Ed Bearss. Leaves 7:30 am from the Air and Space Museum on the Mall in Washington, DC. \$132. A Smithsonian Associates event. 202-252-0012 or [www.civilwarstudies.org](http://www.civilwarstudies.org).

Living history, "Camp Life of Confederate Soldiers," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, MD. 11 am-3 pm. Free with admission. 301-695-1864 or [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org).

## February 12

Special program, "Touched by Fire: A Civil War Romance," dramatic presentation of romance between a Southern lady and a Northerner at Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News, VA. 7 pm. \$15. Reservations required: 757-888-3371 or [www.leehall.org](http://www.leehall.org).

## February 13

Civil War Storytime for Children featuring "Abe Lincoln's Hat" followed by discussion and crafts at Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria, VA. 2 pm. Free, reservations suggested. 703-838-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

## February 19

Living history, Federal Provost Marshal field recruiting station will be set up in front of the Graffiti House, 19484 Brandy Station Road north of Culpeper, VA. The Graffiti House is the visitor center for the Brandy Station Battlefield. 11 am-4 pm. 540-727-7718 or [www.brandystationfoundation.com](http://www.brandystationfoundation.com).

Living history, "Confederate Surgeon," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, MD. 11 am-3 pm. Free with admission. 301-695-1864 or [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org).

## February 20

Walking tour, "Civil War Encampment and Freedman's Farm," on the grounds of Montpelier, James Madison's home near Orange, VA. 2 pm. Free with admission. [www.montpelier.org](http://www.montpelier.org) or 540-672-2728.



## February 25-27

Living history, annual Winter Encampment at the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History in Virginia. Details: 434-793-5644.

## February 26

Bus tour, "Dranesville, Balls Bluff and the Monocacy Battles," led by Ed Bearss. Leaves 8:30 am from the Air and Space Museum on the Mall in Washington, DC. \$133. A Smithsonian Associates event. 202-252-0012 or [www.civilwarstudies.org](http://www.civilwarstudies.org).

## February 27

Bus tour, "First Battle of Manassas," led by Ed Bearss. Leaves 8 am from the Air and Space Museum on the Mall in Washington, DC. \$120. A Smithsonian Associates event. 202-252-0012 or [www.civilwarstudies.org](http://www.civilwarstudies.org).

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## Significant Historic Events in February (continued)

must have been fully half-a-dozen future generals and colonels about the Arlington table that day."

President-elect Lincoln quietly left Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and slipped into Washington early the next morning so as to avoid possible difficulty in pro-Southern Baltimore.

## February 27, 1841

Eleanor Agnes Lee, the fifth child of Robert and Mary Lee, was born at Arlington House.

# RECIPE OF THE MONTH

## Mrs. Lee's Boiled Milk Rolls

The following recipe is taken from *The Robert E. Lee Family Cooking and Housekeeping Book* by Anne Carter Zimmer, great grand-daughter of Robert E. Lee and Mary Custis Lee.

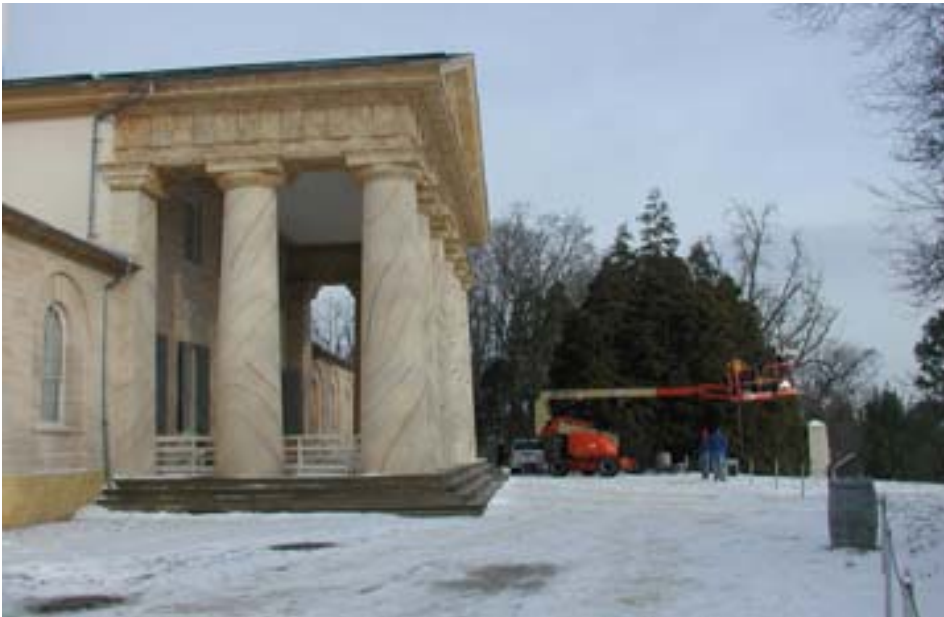
Mrs. Zimmer explains that after the Civil War, the Lee daughters were probably responsible for much of the cooking at Lexington and Mrs. Lee provided sketchy recipes for many dishes, including the one for boiled milk rolls.

The recipe as written yields 3 dozen large rolls and therefore can be halved or quartered. Mrs. Zimmer indicates that the rolls freeze well and "Then, when past their prime, split the rolls raggedly, dab with butter, and toast under the broiler until the edges brown and crisp and the middles are soft and yellow. Splendid."

*Boil a qt of new milk stir in a qt of flour when nearly cold a spoonful salt 2 tablespoons of lard & half a teacup of good yeast set in a warm place to rise for 2 hours when light work in flour on the cake board quite smooth mould into rolls & put in a greased baking pan set in a warm place for a second rise.*

4 c. milk (half-and-half or whole milk)  
10-12 c. flour, divided  
2 t. salt  
2 T. lard  
1/3-1/2 c. homemade yeast (to substitute commercial yeast, 2 cakes or 2 packets, softened as instructed, equals ¼ cup homemade; be sure to count the liquid used to soften the yeast as part of the total liquid called for in the recipe.)  
Butter or lard (preferred) for greasing bowl and tops of dough

Heat milk to barely simmering and cool to lukewarm. Sift 4 cups flour and salt and add. Knead on floured breadboard to a soft dough. Grease a large bowl, turn dough to grease top, cover and let rise until almost doubled, about 2 hours. Work in 4-6 cups more flour, kneading to a soft dough. Make up rolls and put into greased muffin pans or on a greased baking sheet. Grease tops (lard preferred) and allow to rise until almost doubled. Bake at 325 degrees 15-20 minutes depending on size of rolls.



Another view of camera crew at Arlington House on Inauguration Day 2005

## Guided tours for February

Arlington House will again be offering daily guided tours in recognition of Black History Month. The tours will focus on the African-American history of the site and will be presented every afternoon at 1:00 pm through the end of February. The tours will be organized as first come-first served though reservations may be made by contacting the site at the main number (703) 235-1530.



Selina Gray

## AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please contact Delphine Gross no later than the 20th of each month with availability dates and times to be posted the following month (Please call by February 20th with March information). Even if you are a regularly scheduled VIP please contact Delphine to confirm your availability. Again, the contact number is (703) 235-1530 ext. 227. Please leave the dates and times you are available on the voice mail. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

# February 2005

## Arlington House VIP Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00  Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30	<b>2</b> Jack McKay 9:30-12:30	<b>3</b> Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	<b>4</b> Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30	<b>5</b> Delia Rios 11:00-1:30
<b>6</b> Jim Pearson 12:00-4:30	<b>7</b> Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	<b>8</b> Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00  Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30	<b>9</b> Jack McKay 9:30-12:30  Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	<b>10</b> Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	<b>11</b> Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30  Elene Paul 12:30-4:30	<b>12</b> Matt Abney 10:00-1:00  Marmie Edwards 12:30-4:30
<b>13</b> Elene Paul 11:00-3:00  Jim Pearson 12:00-4:30	<b>14</b> Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	<b>15</b> Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	<b>16</b> Jack McKay 9:30-12:30	<b>17</b> Elaine Street 10:30-1:00  Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	<b>18</b> Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30	<b>19</b> Matt Abney 10:00-1:00  Marmie Edwards 12:30-4:30
<b>20</b> Kirsten Wolfe 9:30-4:30  Jim Pearson 12:00-4:30	<b>21</b> Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00	<b>22</b> Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00  Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30	<b>23</b> Jack McKay 9:30-12:30  Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	<b>24</b> Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	<b>25</b> Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30	<b>26</b> Matt Abney 10:00-1:00  Vanna Lewis 10:00-4:30  Delia Rios 11:00-1:30
<b>27</b> Elene Paul 11:00-3:00  Jim Pearson 12:00-4:30	<b>28</b> Fred Hoffman 1:00-4:00					

**If you are available to volunteer, but are not on the calendar please call Delphine so you can be added to the schedule.**





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arlington House  
The Robert E. Lee Memorial  
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway  
Turkey Run Park  
McLean, VA 22101

<<Name>>  
<<Address>>  
<<CityStateZip>>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The Spectacle is a monthly newsletter for the volunteers of Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial.

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c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway  
Turkey Run Park  
McLean, VA 22101

## Volunteers Needed

The roster of active volunteers is in dire need of additional names! If you know anyone interested in joining our ranks please refer them to Delphine Gross, Volunteer Coordinator 703 235-1530 ext. 227.

